Community Contact

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

November 2006

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What to do with scrap metal is a big problem in Manitoba's northern communities simply because it is expensive to collect it and ship it to southern recycling facilities.

Manitoba

This Issue

Welcome to the November 2006 Community Contact newsletter.

The theme for the November Community Contact newsletter is environment. We feature a story on scrap metal recycling in the north and also look at the success of the Thompson Recycle Centre. Recycling has many benefits for communities and the environment such as:

- it helps to reduce the amount of natural resources taken from the land
- pollution is reduced because materials are being recycled instead of thrown out
- the life of the community landfill is extended and much more

This newsletter also provides updated articles on the Cross Lake Royal Canadian Army Cadets (RCAC) program and the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Grow North program. Both of these programs have proven to be very successful to the communities who have participated. This year's Grow North program provided a harvest of nutritious food for program participants and the Cross Lake cadet program has seen increases in the number of cadets enrolled and in the levels of support from sponsors and community residents.

Our special feature, Certification Corner is included in this newsletter with more sample test questions intended to give waterworks operators practice answering questions similar to ones found on certification exams. We also include a training announcement for community public works employees scheduled for January 2007.

Enjoy this issue and feel free to contact us with your comments, article suggestions or requests for additional copies.

SCRAP M

Do you ever wonder what happens to all the metal products that are sold and shipped to northern communities? Where do old cars, trucks, heavy equipment, fridges, stoves, oil drums and numerous other metal products end up? Quite often, they end up in local landfills, people's backyards or they are discarded in remote locations.

Scrap metal recycling in southern Manitoba is a mature industry with well established collection systems that are close to major processing sites. The low cost of collecting and transporting scrap metal makes it a profitable venture for private companies.

Recycling in northern and remote communities represents challenges not common in the south. Those challenges increase the cost of collecting and processing scrap metal to a point where it is not profitable for communities or private companies. This means scrap metal accumulates and becomes a waste management problem for northern communities.

Key barriers to recycling scrap metal in the north include:

- high transportation costs involved in shipping materials to markets
- high cost to obtain and operate scrap metal baling equipment
- need for better waste management practices in some communities
- concerns about shipping scrap metals by backhaul and potentially contaminating equipment used to ship food and other products
- low priority placed on recycling by many people
- communities accessible by air only or dependent on winter roads for transportation of goods
- weather conditions that limit the time to collect and remove the scrap metal

ETAL RECYCLING

in the North

- safe collection and storage of hazardous materials in some of the scrap metal
- lack of finances, technology, manpower and equipment needed by local communities and companies to collect and remove the scrap metal
- need for public education about the environmental importance of recycling

Clearly, it's not always easy moving scrap metal from the north to markets primarily located in the south. It takes more than a community hiring someone to collect and haul the materials away. It takes partnerships, a strong commitment from all involved and financial support to establish a workable plan.

Successful recycling in the north involves developing innovative solutions to financial and transportation barriers. This means government, communities and private industry must be willing to take initiative. Creative thinking must include identifying working partnerships between all concerned parties.

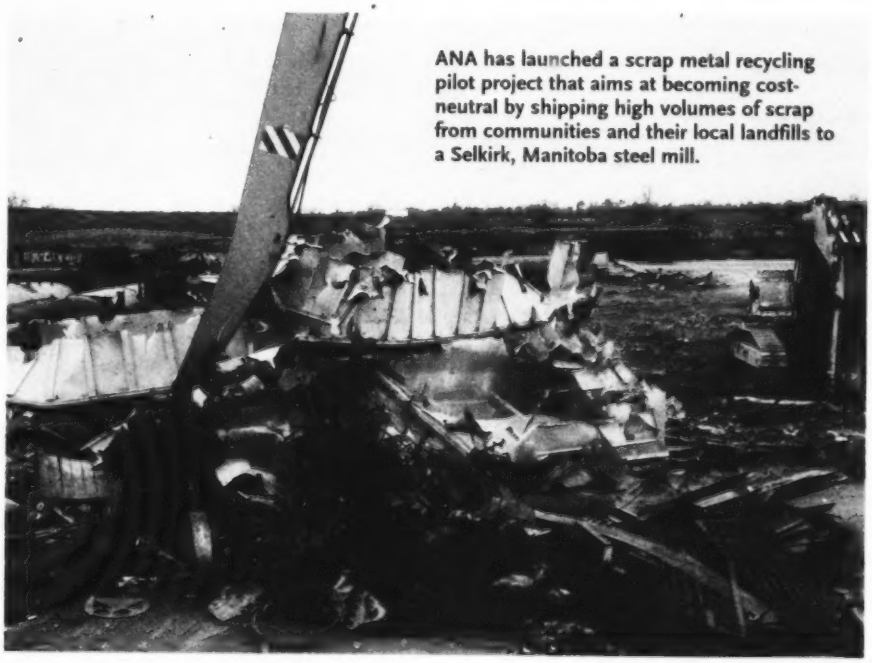
Considering all of this, there are many benefits to developing a successful plan to collect and remove scrap metal from Manitoba's north. Among them are environmental improvement, safety and economic development.

Communities recycling scrap metal will no longer be littered with derelict vehicles, white goods and other scrap metals. Removing these items will help protect surface water, ground water and soil quality by preventing spills from some of the fuels and chemicals in the scrap metals. The communities will be safer for children and pets playing in areas that once contained derelict vehicles and other scrap metal.

Recycling can also create jobs. Temporary workers would be needed by the contractors hired to remove the scrap metal. Local recycling project workers will gain experience and skills in operating a recycling program. Successful removal of scrap metal may help make communities more attractive to tourism.

ANA Scrap Metal Recycling Pilot Project

A Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) scrap metal recycling pilot project for northern communities is helping participating communities clean up and remove accumulated scrap metal within community boundaries and local landfills.



ANA has launched a scrap metal recycling pilot project that aims at becoming cost-neutral by shipping high volumes of scrap from communities and their local landfills to a Selkirk, Manitoba steel mill.

SCRAP METAL RECYCLING IN THE NORTH *(continued)*

ANA is working with a steel recycling and processing plant based in Selkirk, Manitoba to help with the project. Phase I of the pilot project targets communities accessible by all-weather roads. The project is intended to be cost neutral by selecting communities and landfills with large quantities of scrap metal. Because of the distance of Northern communities from the scrap metal processor, large amounts of material are needed to cover expenses for removal and transportation.

Project Goals:

- improve environmental conditions within ANA communities and local landfills
- develop a sustainable and successful scrap metal recycling program for future use by communities
- develop partnerships with local entrepreneurs, neighbouring First Nations and the major scrap metal processors in Manitoba
- use the experience and partnerships gained in this project to help clean up other ANA communities not accessible by all-weather roads

Site inspections needed to determine the amount of scrap material for collection are near completion. Thirty tons of scrap metal have been removed from landfills that service Bissett, Manigotagan and Seymourville. Landfills serving Sherridon and Wabowden were assessed and scheduled for cleanup in late 2006. ANA hopes all communities will be encouraged by the project to review where the scrap metal they produce ends up and how it affects the environment.

Accumulation of scrap metals in landfills and on vacant land is not only unsightly, but can pose a risk, especially for children and pets.

TRC Provides
Northern Recycling Leadership

The Thompson Recycle Centre (TRC), established in 1996, is a non-profit, community driven recycling organization. TRC operates with a volunteer board of directors, a manager and nine full time staff. Originally owning one vehicle and employing one person, TRC now owns a building, a baler, a forklift, two recycling trailers and four trucks. Main components of the operation are the curb side truck and trailer units.

TRC consistently seeks out new and innovative opportunities to expand its recycling operation, developing partnerships with local and regional organizations, provincial and federal departments and communicating with other recycling communities.

Ongoing TRC partnership programs include:

- commercial recycling
- residential blue box program
- used building materials program, where used building materials are sold
- apartment block recycling
- hotel recycling programs
- a Manitoba Education and Training trainee development program helps people obtain work experience and the they need to retain full time employment
- expansion of the regional recycling program

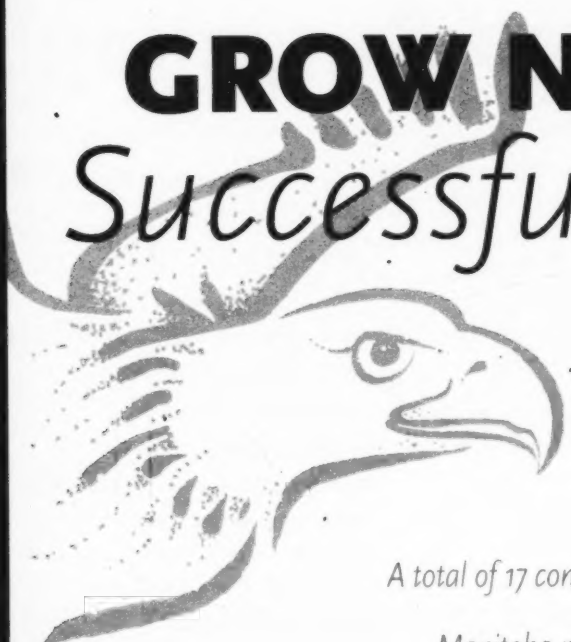
TRC has been an active partner in developing a regional recycling initiative that encourages recycling operations in Northern Manitoba communities. TRC worked with Manitoba Conservation's Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Branch to develop facilities and become equipped to act as a regional recycling center for outlying northern communities.

Once communities complete free registration with the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC), TRC will help them acquire grants and establish community recycling programs. As part of the program, communities may send their recyclable materials to TRC. Communities then submit claims for reimbursement according to tonnage recycled by both MPSC and TRC.

Recycling programs drastically reduce waste sent to landfill because approximately 60 per cent of community waste materials are recyclable. Recycling programs generate employment for local residents and create community wellness and pride. For additional information about this program, please contact Brad Salamandyk, manager of the Thompson Recycle Centre, at 204-677-7991.

Now in business a decade, the Thompson Recycle Centre has curb side recycling in place to collect, sort and bale recyclable materials for shipment to markets.

GROW NORTH
Successful First



A total of 17 communities across Northern Manitoba participated in Grow North

With the coming of the frost, the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative's Grow North project wrapped up for the 2006 season. In recent months, staff from Manitoba Agriculture, Foods and Rural Initiatives visited many Northern Manitoba communities to put on one-day food preservation workshops, including how to freeze garden vegetables and how baby food can be prepared from fresh veggies.

A total of 17 communities across Northern Manitoba participated in Grow North with a variety of unique projects. Three examples of successful, yet different, community gardening efforts, were seen in the communities of Wabowden, Leaf Rapids, and Garden Hill First Nation.

In Wabowden, the centre of activity was Mel Johnson School where students germinated their plants in the classroom until they were mature enough to take home and plant. In September, one fourth grader wrote:

"First thing I did was plant all my plants in my garden. Then we watered them. That day nothing changed. A week later they had changed. Some little tomatoes sprouted. Some cucumbers sprouted. A little rabbit took my broccoli. Then two weeks later I had a few tomatoes. Then two months later I had lots of vegetables; tomatoes, beets and cucumbers. Then the frost came and we had to pull everything out. Then we ate them all."

In Leaf Rapids, Amisk International Centre, the local community development agency, used an existing greenhouse and other community resources to engage youth and families

A Garden Hill youngster marvels at the high quality of fresh vegetables being harvested as part of the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative.

in learning about starting plants from seed and transplanting them into gardens throughout the community.

In Garden Hill, health centre staff helped a total of 49 families start gardens. They ensured that roto-tillers were lent out and returned on time, and in good shape, that garden tools, fencing, seeds and seed potatoes were distributed, and that gardeners had fertilizer and peat moss to enrich the soil.

Of interest, Bunibonibee Cree Nation, with support from Laurel Gardiner of the Burntwood Regional Roundtable, used a modest amount of funding to help a family with a seasonal chicken operation. Out of 60 chicks brought in, an impressive 58 grew to maturity.

All of these success stories had help from a local government or an organization like a school, a development agency, a community health centre or a regional representative working with a band council. The organizations made sure projects were advanced locally so interested community members were able to realize the joy of growing their own food.

Given the need for many northern communities to receive materials over winter roads, plans are already underway for the 2007 season. The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative hopes the program will expand next year to include more community organizations. They want to hear from communities willing to work together and dedicate the time and energy needed to ensure success.

If your community or community organization is north of the 53rd parallel and understands the importance of promoting local production of food for local consumption, the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative invites them to submit a letter of interest, with letters of support from local stakeholders no later than December 15, 2006 to:

The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Secretariat
200-500 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3X1

Please note: Grow North is co-ordinated by regional organizations. The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative provides modest grants for gardening equipment, materials and seeds only. Training materials and workshops are provided by Manitoba Agriculture, Foods and Rural Initiatives as staffing allows. Each letter of interest should include an explanation of how the community organization will provide local labour and equipment to provide locally available materials like peat, commonly called black dirt, other local soil enhancers and fence posts.

Cross Lake **Cadet Program** *Update*

Since it was featured in the July 2006 Community Contact newsletter, the Cross Lake Army Cadet program has continued to grow and benefit youth in the community.

After a summer break, the program restarted in September with a total of 86 cadets, up from the 55 when the program began last year, with another 25 youth waiting to enrol. The remarkable number of young people wanting to take part bodes well for the long term success of the program.

Summer was busy and exciting for 10 of the cadets. Three of them attended a six-week leadership program in White Horse, Yukon and seven attended a two-week basic training program in Vernon, British Columbia. All ten cadets proved exceptional during these training sessions and now take active roles in training other cadets in the Cross Lake program.

The Cross Lake Army Cadet corps is fortunate to have local leaders like community councillor Bob Smith who, in addition to his full-time job, puts in many hours each week as a volunteer on the program. The program also enjoys private sector support with Sigfusson Northern Ltd. donating a trailer to the cadets for their administration offices and equipment storage.

Another special event occurred this past October when a group of 42 cadets, four officers and three civilian volunteers came to Winnipeg for the annual cadet Fall Leadership Concentration (Fall Con). This is a gathering of about 500 cadets from Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba. Of the 15 cadet corps attending this year, two were from the northern Manitoba communities of Cross Lake and Flin Flon. Fall Con focuses on promoting physical fitness activities, leadership training, team-building exercises, practical application of map and compass and much more. The Cross Lake cadets won the Spirit Award as the most well behaved cadets at this event.

While in Winnipeg for Fall Con, the cadets were invited to a luncheon at the Legislative building with the Honourable Oscar Lathlin, Minister for Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. The minister spoke to the cadets and reiterated how the program has benefited Cross Lake and how the cadets are seen as role models in the community. An added bonus for the cadets was the opportunity to meet Premier Gary Doer, who stopped by the luncheon to meet the cadets and hear more about their program.

The success of the Cross Lake program has led other northern communities to inquire about setting up their own cadet programs. As successful as this program is, it takes a lot of community leadership and local support to get things started. It's not an easy accomplishment but, once started, the benefits can be seen in the youth and spirit of the community.

If you are interested in learning more about starting a cadet or ranger program in your community, you can talk to the Aboriginal and Northern Affairs officials who work in your community or call Captain Nanette Huypungco of the Department of National Defence at 1-204-833-2500 (ext 5264) or toll free 1-800-862-0032 (option #3).

Cross Lake cadets line up for lunch at the Legislative Building dining room (left). Premier Gary Doer meets some new recruits to the Cross Lake corps (above). ANA Minister Oscar Lathlin shares a moment with cadets during their visit to the Manitoba Legislative Building (below).

Public Works

Employee Workshop – January, 2007

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) is currently adding the finishing touches for the upcoming Annual Public Works Employee Workshop.

Workshops are being planed for the cities of Thompson (Northern Region) and Selkirk (North Central Region) in January, 2007.

The workshops will provide public works employees in ANA communities with information on their roles and responsibilities for infrastructure audits and how this can affect overall community grades in the audits. The workshops will also provide information on old and new legislation, bylaws that could affect community landfills, water treatment plants and more.

The workshops will feature a professional development day and will include topics relevant to public works employees such as:

- chemical pump maintenance
- domestic pump maintenance
- electrical works (lockout/tagout)
- responsibilities and duties of a public works employee
- infrastructure audits
- regulation review

Once details have been finalized, information will be sent to all ANA communities with public works employees. If you have any questions about workshop registration details, please contact Chris Tyrrell 204-945-2153 or Eric Ducharme 204-622-2003.

Hydro Tip: **It Pays** to insulate

Manitoba Hydro Offers Home Insulation Program

Keep warmer this winter by insulating your home. There are three good reasons to insulate:

- increased comfort
- lower heating costs
- energy conservation

Increased Comfort

A well-insulated home is more comfortable. Insulation helps keep your house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Lower Heating Costs

A poorly insulated home loses heat. You will need to run your heating system more to keep the house warm. This raises your heating bills. Adding insulation reduces heat from escaping. You will not have to run your heating system as much, and your energy bills will be lower.

Energy Conservation

In Manitoba, 13 per cent of our annual energy use goes to heat our homes. Insulating your home helps save energy and keep energy costs low.

The Power Smart Home Insulation Program helps you pay for the cost of insulation. A rebate is available when you insulate your home to Power Smart levels. The rebate on your energy bill may be up to 100 per cent of the cost of the insulation material.

To get started, contact your insulation retailer or contractor. Make sure they approve your project before you buy any insulation. Manitoba Hydro has booklets to help you decide which insulation to buy. The insulation must meet minimum Power Smart levels.

The average rebate from the program is $800. Annual savings on energy bills average $150. The savings depend on what area of the home you insulate and how much insulation you add.

As the homeowner, you may install the insulation yourself or hire a contractor. You must complete all insulation and associated renovation work within six months of the date of your application.

For more information, call toll free 1-888-624-9376 (1-888-MB-HYDRO). Information is also on the Internet at: www.hydro.mb.ca/hip.

Community Contact thanks Manitoba Hydro for preparing this article.

Community constables show off six of the new, specially modified police vehicles delivered by ANA on October 13, 2006. Left to right are: Regis St. Laurent, Community Constable, Pelican Rapids; RCMP Constable Brent MacDuff, Swan River; Diedre Hather, Community Constable, Barrows and Area; John Veroneau, Community Constable, Crane River; Greg Sanderson, Community Constable, Waterhen; Adelard DeLaronde, Community Constable, Duck Bay; Paul Sutherland, Community Constable, Camperville.

ANA Presents
New Constable Vehicles

On October 13, 2006, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) presented six new constable vehicles to the following communities:

- Barrows and area
- Camperville
- Crane River
- Duck Bay
- Pelican Rapids
- Waterhen

The vehicles were presented in Swan River, a central location for many of the communities who received a vehicle. On October 12, a new constable vehicle was also presented in Winnipeg to the shared constable program for the communities of Bissett, Manigotagan and Seymourville.

The new constable vehicles were identified in recommendations from the 2005 ANA Constable Program Review. Until these new vehicles arrived, community constables used their own vehicles for patrols. The new vehicles along with changes in constable training, uniforms and equipment are part of the improvements outlined in the program review.

This was a special event for the communities and their constables, who received the vehicles. Besides constables, representatives from the community councils were also present. The Honourable Oscar Lathlin, Minister Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, presented the constables with the keys to the vehicles. Deputy Premier and Minister for Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, was present to offer best wishes to the constables and community representatives.

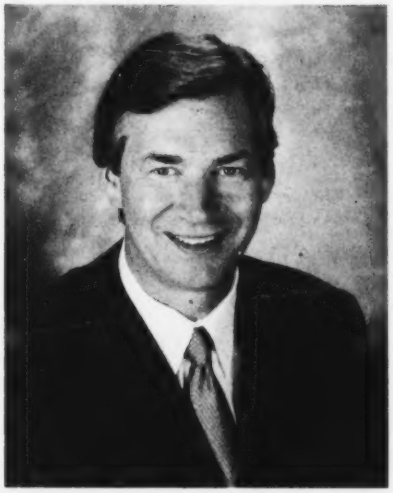
HOLIDAY MESSAGES FROM

The Premier of Manitoba

I am delighted to extend best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families.

Whatever the reason may be for our coming together during the holidays, be it faith, custom, family or friendship, we will no doubt find ourselves celebrating amidst the spirit of peace, good will and inclusion that flows throughout our province.

On behalf of my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly and all government employees, I extend to you our best wishes for a safe, merry and memorable holiday season, and a very happy New Year.



Gary Doer
Premier

The Minister of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

May your Holiday Season be filled with warmth, joy and peace!

Oscar Lathlin, Minister
Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Certification Corner

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This edition of Certification Corner is taken from the Operator Certification Study Guide, available from the AWWA Bookstore 800-926-7337 or www.awwa.org/bookstore. The study guide contains hundreds of questions and answers that are sourced for more information, as well as several practical appendixes. The questions were developed according to the Association of Boards of Certification need-to-know criteria. The guide is intended to give operators practice answering questions that are similar in format and content to the questions that appear on certification exams.

1. Which of the following best defines the term specific capacity?

a) amount of water given volume of saturated rock or sediment will yield to gravity

b) amount of water a given volume of saturated rock or sediment will yield to pumping

c) rate at which water would flow in an aquifer if the aquifer were an open conduit

d) amount of water a well will produce for each foot of drawdown

2. What effect will caustic soda have on water?

a) lower the pH of the water

b) buffer the water

c) increase the pH of the water

d) stabilize the water to a pH of 7

3. pH is a measure of:

a) conductivity

b) water's ability to neutralize acid

c) hydrogen's ion concentration

d) dissolved solids

4. Special care should be taken when using dry alum and quicklime because, if mixed together:

a) explosive hydrogen gas may be released

b) the mixture will plug effluent weirs

c) will create slick areas on the floor if spilled

d) coagulation will not occur

5. Which of the following is associated with using a pressure tap to make connections of new mains to an existing main?

a) discoloured water

b) large amount of water loss

c) low probability of contamination

d) loss of fire protection

6. A fluoride dose of 1.05 milligrams per litre is desired for treating a flow of 110.4 litres per second. How many kilograms per day of sodium silicofluoride with a commercial purity of 98 per cent and a fluoride content of 60.6 per cent will be required?

a) 11.36 kilograms per day

b) 14.54 kilograms per day

c) 23.64 kilograms per day

d) 27.27 kilograms per day

Answers: 1-d, 2-c, 3-c, 4-a, 5-c, 6-b

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Community Council members, community residents and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit feedback, comments, questions, suggestions and ideas to the editor.